



The Russian Club Ltd

7 Albert Road, Strathfield NSW 2135

Ph.02 9746 8850 Fax: 02 9746 2778

russianclub@bigpond.com

ABN:13 000 911 419

PRESIDENT'S LETTER 2023/24

Dear Member,

This letter forms part of the package you are receiving which consists of the meeting notification and agenda, minutes of the 2022/23 Annual General Meeting, nomination form for election to the Board and Audited Financial Accounts 2023/24. At this stage, the tentative date for the AGM is Sunday 24 November 2024 at 1:00pm. Should this change for any reason, you will be informed accordingly.

Firstly, Happy Centenary Year to ALL Members.

The Year in Review

This year has been a special year, being our Centenary Year, what a milestone!

Apart from the boring activities which needs to be done so that the Russian Clubs' engine is in running order, the Board of Directors have focussed on some major projects and organised many functions appropriate for a Centenary Year.

We celebrated this major milestone by dedicating every Event, Function, Concerts and Festivals at the club to the commemoration of our Centenary.

For articles on past Events, Function, Concerts and Festivals, held this year at the club, please visit our website "TheRussianclub.com.au".

You may also see photos of yourself or realise what you have missed and join us in the future.

Historical Reflection.

The Russian Club Limited history can be traced back to the volatile period in Europe, the first world war and the Russian revolution.

Early in the last Century, when the Russian White Army Officers, Solders, their Families and Friends looking for peace and quiet, opportunities for themselves and their families, decided to migrate to the Fifth Continent.

A subset, of these people had a Vision, and in 1924 they established a Russian Club, which later became known as the Russian House and then The Russian Club Limited.

The **Foundation** of The Russian Club was based on **6 Pillars**. The Russian Orthodox Religion, Russian Language, Russian Culture, Russian Tradition, Russian Literature and Friendship

These **6 pillars united** the Russian Community and gave them an opportunity to Mix with like-minded people, make friends and in some cases, find soulmates!

Today, 100 years on, these **Same 6 pillars** still unite us, provides us with an opportunity to mix with like-minded people, make friends and find soulmates!

Every Event, Function, Concert or Festival organised over the last 100 years by The Club, at the Russian Club, can be traced back directly to one or more of THESE 6 pillars.

Who do we thank for The Russian Clubs' success?

The gratitude goes to our Directors and Volunteers, who had the foresight, good will and dedication to establish the club, keep it running and relevant over the decades, and God willing The Russian Club will continue to exist on the **efforts** of its volunteers.

There are literally 100's, if not 1000's of members who need to be mentioned and thanked. But, at the risk of missing someone, I thank all directors and volunteers over the century who have sacrificed their time for the benefit of the club and its members.

You, know who you are, and be **assured, the Russian Club Members are eternally grateful.**

What did the Russian Club witness over the LAST Century? (a small sample).

Sydney Balalaika Orchestra, performed at The Russian club for decades. And it is fitting that their last performance was at The Russian club, this year.

Russian Ladies Singing **Ensemble**, Russian Cossacks **Choir** Group and Russian Cossacks **Dancing** Group performed at our Club numerous times. They were so good, they **even** performed, at the Sydney Opera House. Our current Vice President, Nina Levitsky, was part of the Ladies Singing Ensemble, Nick Chubukoff and Vitali Patrino were part of the Cossacks Dancing Group.

The Russian Clubs' Library which is at the centre of many of our **Cultural** events, has been renovated and is suitable to be USED by both the elderly and the young.

Theatre is very much part of Russian **Culture**, and we had many Theatre Groups associated with The Russian Club over the years. Today, we have 2 active theatre groups.

The Club sponsored many sporting teams and **at one** stage we had a sports hall. **Today**, we still have many Volleyball trophies on display.

Anna Pavlova, the PRIMA ballerina visited, The Russian Club, MORE than Once!

Financial

You will note in the Financial Accounts that the Club increased our operating profit from \$21,008 last year to an operating profit of \$39,157.

Please note, that we are very much reliant on the Goblin88's restaurant income. This year Goblin88 has changed its business model which may be beneficial to members.

The Board and Volunteers.

I cannot be prouder of the current Board, they all committed themselves to this Major Centenary Year and exceeded my expectations.

The volunteers' group are mostly invisible but essential to the success of our functions. Thank you so much, for all your efforts.

The way forward

The Club always needs people who are prepared to give time, be dedicated, and have appropriate skills but particularly you need to be a team player. Please consider nominating for the Board and you should obtain your directors ID in advance.

On behalf of the Board, I wish everyone all the very best and see you all at the AGM. If you have any questions, you can contact me through the Club's email russianclub@bigpond.com or on 0418471193.

Regards
Nicholas Tolpigin